



Representative Eileen Cody

11th Legislative District

2002 Session Report

May 2002

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Health Care, *Chair*
Appropriations



Dear Neighbor:

After eight years representing one of the most diverse districts in the state, I am sad to report that I will no longer be representing the 11th legislative district in Olympia.

Every ten years, we are required to re-draw the legislative districts so that each of the 49 districts represents roughly even numbers of people.

Over the past ten years, our state grew by 1 million people, to 6 million. Unfortunately, the growth was not even and several changes were made to the 11th Legislative District.

Some of those changes included adding parts of Renton and Tukwila to the 11th district and moving the International District, Pioneer Square and part of Beacon Hill into the 37th district.

Another change involves moving about a third of the district — West Seattle and White Center — into the 34th district. With that change, I too will move to the 34th.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve you in Olympia over the past several years. Thank for all of your wonderful suggestions (in particular, answering the survey that Rep. Voloria and I sent out in January) and feedback.

In this newsletter, I have included information on:

- The Transportation Plan
- The Budget's Implications on Health Care
- Prescription Drug Reform
- Drug Sentencing Reform
- Mandatory Overtime for Nurses
- Collective Bargaining / Unemployment Insurance Reform.

If you would like additional information on any of these topics, or have questions about other issues we discussed in the Legislature this year, please do not hesitate to call my Olympia office at (360) 786-7978.

Sincerely,

Eileen Cody
State Representative

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Rep. Eileen Cody • 2002 Session Report



Traffic Relief and Road Safety: A Transportation Plan for the 21st Century



This session we broke the legislative gridlock on transportation by passing a transportation plan that invests \$6.1 billion for congestion relief and road safety on state highways – as well as \$1.2 billion for transportation choices including buses, rail, and passenger-only ferries – and an additional \$330 million for local transportation projects in cities, suburbs and rural communities.

The 9 cent increase in the gas tax – phased in over two years – will cost the average driver \$4.50 a month.

It will pay for:

- Additional lanes on I-405 from Lynnwood to Tukwila
- Completion of HOV lanes on I-5 from Everett to the Port of Tacoma
- Additional lanes on State Route 520 across Lake Washington
- Replacement of the Alaskan Way Viaduct
- Increased passenger rail, bus service, paratransit and rural mobility projects

I voted for this plan in March because I believe that these and other transportation projects are critical to keeping our regional economy strong in the near future. I look forward to voting for it again, at the polls in November, as an average citizen.

For the 11th District, the plan includes funding for: four additional lanes on I-405; replacing the Alaskan Way Viaduct; South Spokane Street Viaduct; Improved Freight Mobility on Royal Brougham Way; East Marginal Way Ramps;

Lander Street Overcrossing; and Duwamish Intelligent Transportation System. These projects, totaling \$1.2 billion, will directly benefit people living in South King County.



Balancing the Budget: Implications for Health and Human Services



Our challenge this year was to balance the budget – filling a \$1.5 billion deficit – while still protecting the most vulnerable members of society.

We did it by making nearly \$700 million in program cuts and efficiencies, using \$450 million in tobacco settlement bond financing, \$25 million from the Big Game Lottery, \$27 million by eliminating some tax exemptions and \$46 million in increased tax collection enforcement. We also used \$325 million from the Emergency Reserve Fund.

The \$700 million reductions in programs and services will undoubtedly have a profound impact on many of our state's programs such as vocational education, adult dental, and mental health programs.

Thankfully, we spared programs for the developmentally disabled, people living with HIV/AIDS, and programs helping the unemployable from the budget ax.

	Original 2003 Funding Level	Governor's Proposed 2003 Funding Level	Final 2003 Funding Level
Health Care			
Eliminate Interpreter Services	\$10 Million	0	\$8.2 Million
Wholesale Pharmacy Costs	\$360.8 Million	\$289.7 Million	\$336.4 Million
AIDSNETS Funding Reduction	\$8.1 Million	\$7.1 Million	\$8.1 Million
Neurodevelopmental Center Funding	\$950,000	0	\$950,000
Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)	\$26 Million	\$23.2 Million	\$26 Million
Emergency Room Care for the Uninsured (Medically Indigent)	\$33 Million	\$11 Million	\$33 Million
Long-Term Care			
Nursing Home Rate Reductions	\$508.7 Million	\$439.5 Million	\$508.7 Million



Rep. Eileen Cody • 2002 Session Report



Prescription Drug Reform Deferred: Big Pharmaceuticals Win (Again)

Prescription Drug Reform (SB 6368) had to be put off yet again after a vigorous and deceitful campaign by Big Pharmaceuticals derailed an attempt to control costs and make it easier for people to get prescription drugs.

Here in Washington, we proposed creating a “preferred drug list” based on a drug’s effectiveness and cost, with an eye toward minimizing side effects. This list would have been based on the best scientific evidence available.

Drug industry lobbyists, however, were determined to prevent our reform efforts. They sent misleading information to doctors’ offices, raised concerns among minority groups, ginned up opposition among biotechnology firms and said that physicians would be hamstrung by the new list.

Preferred Drug Lists are already used by hospitals and in most insurance plans as a way to control costs. Under our plan, doctors would have been able to check “dispense as written” if they wanted to give a particular drug to a particular patient.

With the support of consumers, pharmacists, physicians and groups representing a wide range of interests, I can assure you that we will revisit this issue next year.

Breaking the cycle of addiction and crime: Sending Drug Offenders to Rehab instead of Prison



Drug Sentencing Reform (HB 2338) stops the revolving prison door for drug offenders. It retains tough penalties for serious drug offenders while allowing non-violent drug offenders to seek treatment as an alternative to serving out their jail or prison sentences.

Drug offenders are held accountable :

- Addicts are required to maintain a strict regimen of drug treatment, counseling, urinalysis tests, and meetings with drug court judges while participating in drug court. Participants who fail to comply will have to serve their time.

Treatment works:

- In the latest survey of King County drug court graduates, only 8% have re-offended. Some graduates have been crime-free for as much as five years.
- Drug courts are championed by police, prosecutors and judges. Offenders are held accountable for their addiction, are monitored by the court, and if they fail, are incarcerated.

Alternatives to prison time save tax dollars:

- One year of drug court services typically costs \$2,500 per participant — while incarceration averages \$25,000 per year.
- For the cost of 65 days in jail, we can provide as much as 18 months of treatment to an addict.
- This bill will save us \$33 million in prison costs over the next five years.

No Mandatory Overtime for Nurses

Sen. Margarita Prentice and I were proud to work on legislation that establishes limits on mandatory overtime for nurses involved in direct patient care, paid an hourly wage, and employed by a health care facility.

ESB 6675 is a good first step in addressing the problems that are causing nurses to leave the profession. Safety for patients will improve if nurses are not forced to work overtime when tired. As part of a compromise, we also addressed hospitals’ concerns by adding certain safeguards. Overtime will be allowed in emergencies, to finish procedures, and other similar cases.



Rep. Eileen Cody • 2002 Session Report



Collective Bargaining

House Bill 1268 is the first serious step toward true civil service reform in decades. It borrows practices used by other states as well as by companies here in Washington. If we want our government to work like a business, we need to emulate some of their policies.

This will level the playing field for all employees by:

- Extending collective bargaining rights to state employees for wages, hours and conditions of employment.
- Providing for true collective bargaining while protecting management rights.
- Ensuring that managers are not in the same collective bargaining unit as those they supervise.

Half the states currently allow for state employees to bargain collectively. Groups such as firefighters and police have always enjoyed these rights.

Unemployment Insurance

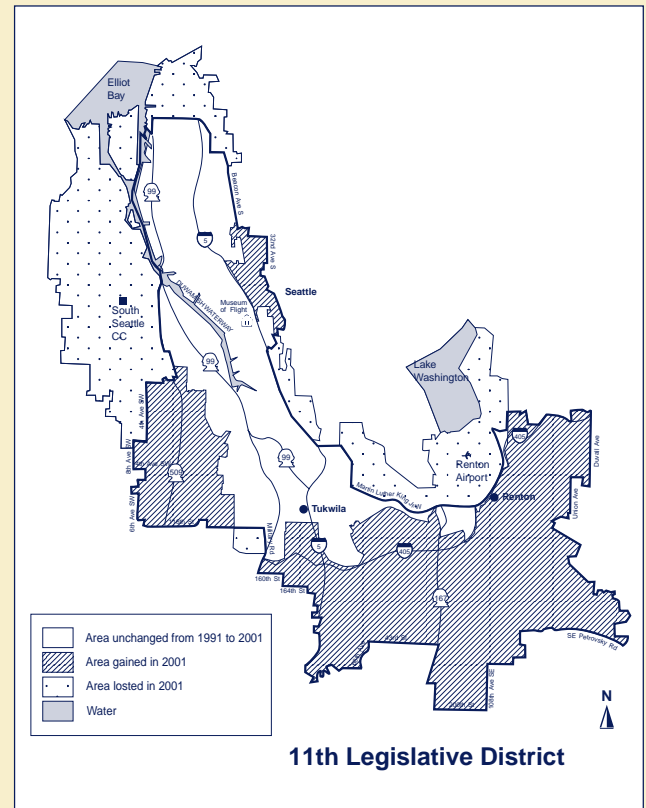
HB 2901 reforms our Unemployment Insurance system, treats businesses more fairly, prevents a tax increase and gives laid-off workers more retraining opportunities.

Under the old system, some businesses paid far more than their share of unemployment insurance. Others paid far less. In the last eight years, that imbalance stood at \$1.7 billion. By making the system fairer, we make sure the fund stays solvent at a time when it's desperately needed.

To help with the ever-rising unemployment, we've added an additional \$34 million in worker retraining benefits.

Redistricting

Every ten years we re-draw legislative districts to make sure each district has roughly the same number of people. Here is a map of the new 11th Legislative District, as drawn by a non-partisan commission:



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